

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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USUN ALSO FOR AMB SCOTT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PO GE

SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF PORTUGUESE-EAST GERMAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

REF: (A) LISBON 3393 (NOTAL); (B) LISBON 3281 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FORMATION OF "FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY" FOR IMPROVING PORTUGUESE TIES WITH EAST GERMANY LATEST EVENT IN CAMPAIGN WHICH PLACES EAST GERMANS AT DIPLOMATIC/CULTURAL FOREFRONT OF EAST BLOC'S PENETRATION EFFORT. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER AEGIS OF PORTUGUESE LEAGUE FOR CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL EXCHANGE WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ORGANIZATION OF PORTUGAL-DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF GERMANY FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WAS FORMALLY ANNOUNCED AUGUST 13. THIS GROUP NOW TAKES ITS PLACE ALONGSIDE PREVIOUSLY ORGANIZED FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES WITH CUBA AND SOVIET UNION.

2. WHY A FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WITH EAST GERMANY (SINCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE NOT YET GIVEN BIRTH TO SUCH OFFSPRING)? EAST GERMANS ARE PUSHING IDEA THAT PORTUGAL HAS MORE IN COMMON WITH EAST GERMAN SOCIALIST STATE THAN WITH ANY OF THE OTHERS: A FASCIST PAST, AND A PERIOD OF RECONSTRUCTION IN WHICH "ALL POPULAR, DEMOCRATIC AND ANTIFASCIST FORCES" PARTICIPATE. (FOREGOING QUOTATION TAKEN FROM REMARKS OF WERNER MANNEBERG, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF EAST GERMAN LEAGUE FOR FRIENDSHIP WITH PEOPLES AND HEAD OF VISITING EAST GERMAN FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION, WHO EXPLAINED AS WELL THAT UNITED EFFORTS OF ABOVE GROUPINGS, COMBINED WITH EFFORTS OF WORKING CLASS, HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO VICTORY OVER FASCIST PAST. EAST GERMANS ACCORDINGLY CAN TODAY FEEL THEMSELVES PROUD).

3. ONE MORE REASON WHY PORTUGAL SHOULD LOOK TO EAST GERMANY FOR INSPIRATION: IT IS THE WORLD'S EIGHTH STRONGEST INDUSTRIAL POWER. ACCORDING TO DR. ALEXANDRE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BABO, MEMBER OF PORTUGUESE LEAGUE, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RATE ACHIEVED BY GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC PERMITS PORTUGUESE TO EVALUATE THE TRUE POSSIBILITIES OF SOCIALISM IN LIBERTY.

4. NEW ORGANIZATION PLANS TO SEEK OUT MEMBERS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL TENDENCIES WHO SHARE ANTIFASCIST IDEAS. GROUP WILL PRESENT FILMS ON GDR, ORGANIZE

EXHIBITS, SEND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE GROUPS FROM ONE COUNTRY TO OTHER, AWARD STUDY GRANTS, AND ENCOURAGE EXCHANGES OF STUDENTS, WORKERS AND "PRESTIGIOUS PERSONS".

5. COMMENT: THERE SEEMS LITTLE DOUBT BUT THAT NEW FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY WILL IN FACT CARRY OUT EXTENSIVE PROGRAM ALONG LINES LAID OUT. WARM MEDIA WELCOME OF NEW EAST GERMAN AMBASSADOR (REF A) DEMONSTRATES THAT NUMEROUS PCP MEMBERS AND SYMPATHIZERS IN PRESS AND TELEVISION ARE MORE THAN PREPARED TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM FAVORABLE COVERAGE TO EAST GERMAN EFFORTS. (AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL, WHICH GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE, AUGMENTED BY TV DOCUMENTARY ON MODERN, YOUNG, PROGRESSIVE AND DYNAMIC SOCIALIST GERMAN STATE IN HEART OF EUROPE). PARALLEL PRESS TREATMENT OF \$40,000 CONTRIBUTION TO PORTUGUESE INTERSINDICAL BY EAST GERMAN TRADE UNIONS (REF B) HAS ALREADY SET TONE FOR GENEROUS FRATERNAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM FORMER SUFFERERS-UNDER-FASCIST OPPRESSION IN NORTH.
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